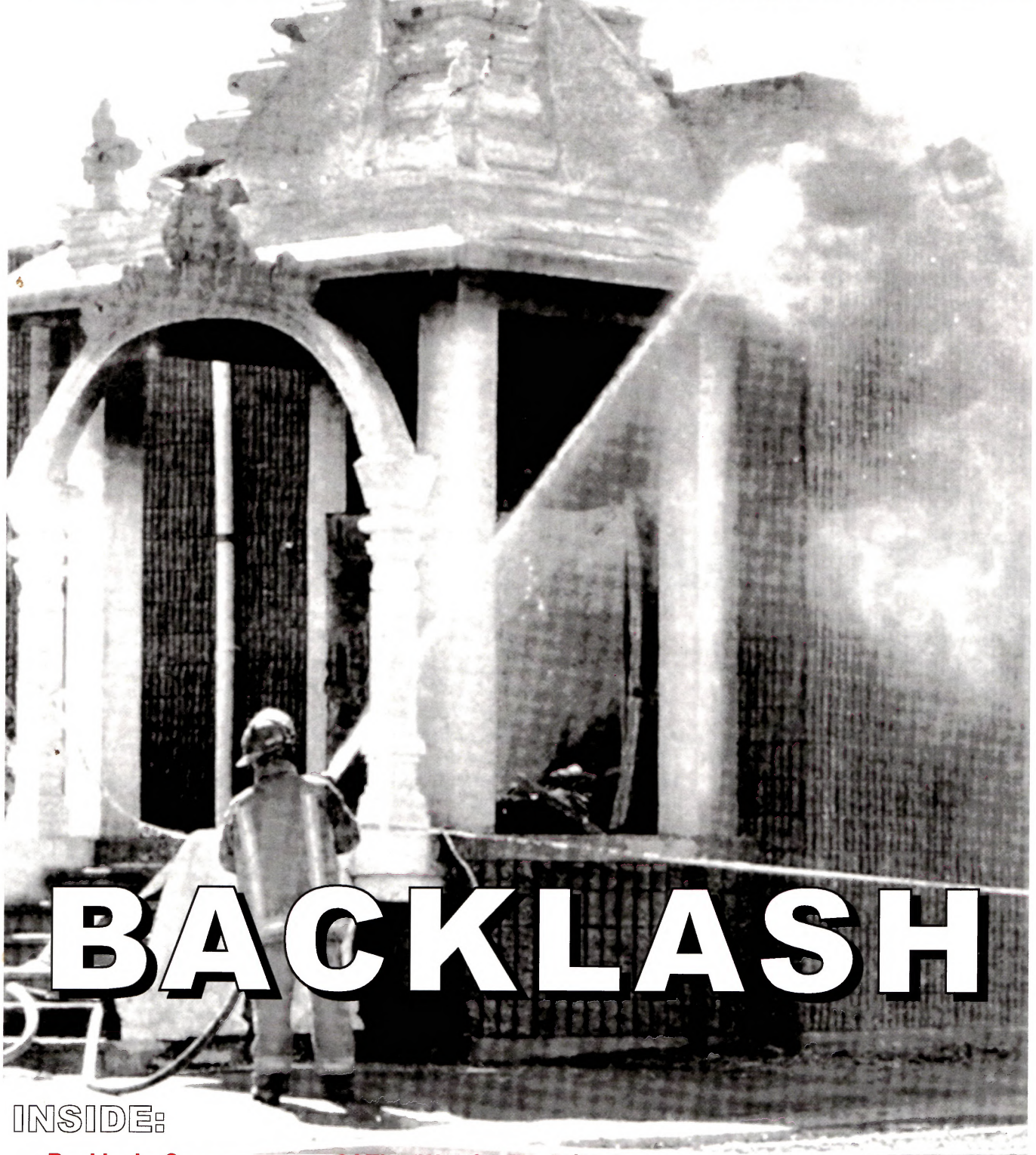


Anidote

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BACKLASH

INSIDE:

- Backlash: Consequences Of The 'War On Terrorism'
- Under Review: 'S11: Truth And Consequences'

FRONT COVER

Photo: Backlash: A Hindu Temple in Hamilton, Ontario is burnt down by vandals on September 15 in the wake of the atrocities in NYC.

CLASS ACTION

The traditional left is in meltdown. Gone are the days when the left actually made an impact on the hearts and minds of everyday working class people. As evidenced by the lack of working class participation in so-called 'revolutionary' politics today, the organized Left has abandoned the people it claims to be acting in support of.

Though most of the Left blames the working classes for not being 'radical' enough, we believe the problem can be attributed to the liberal orientation and rank opportunism of the Left itself. If progressive forces fail to provide answers to important social and economic questions, solutions will undoubtedly be sought on the side of reaction.

Class Action was formed to reinforce the pole position of class in the struggle for self-empowerment. We are committed to halting the progress of the Far Right, in pursuit of an independent working class movement. At the same time, we intend to expose the fault lines in orthodox left thinking and practice, charting a new course for class politics based in the real world.

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EDITORIAL

URGENT TASKS

In the previous issue of Antidote we warned of the potential for a racial backlash in Canada, drawing attention to areas of heated public debate where an alternative class-based analysis and approach have been sorely lacking. Dismissing the widespread notion that extreme or 'fringe' elements of the far right are primarily responsible for stoking the fires of racism, we made small steps in responding to these issues through analysis and action.

But literally weeks after our first issue went to press, a racial backlash we warned of arrived on our doorsteps in a way no one quite expected. Events leading up and subsequent to September 11th have permanently altered the political landscape in North America. But rather than recognize and respond to the immediate danger breeding in our respective localities, many on the Left have uniformly opted to launch into a new wave of protest anywhere but.

Despite this difference in orientation, some contenders outside as well as within the anti-globalization movement have accurately pointed out some crucial responses to the war. Many agree that urgent tasks include addressing the rising tide of racism and xenophobia and resisting repressive legislation and police powers already being targeted against a wide range of people. This is where we find common ground and aim to contribute in a committed and long-term manner.

The challenges were lurking around the corner prior to September 11th. The events surrounding this day only expedited their arrival.

If you're interested in getting involved with Class Action or if you have information from your area that might be helpful to us, write to the National Office at the address or e-mail below. Please include a phone number and e-mail address if you wish to apply for supporter status and receive notification of activities.

Subscriptions are \$10 (North America) \$20 (rest of the world) for 4 issues. Sample copies of Antidote are available from CA for \$2. Bulk orders are \$14 per each 10 copies. Make checks and money orders payable to *Class Action*. US funds for US and foreign orders.

CLASS ACTION

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THE TROUBLE WITH KITCHENER

Perceptions of Kitchener's city core as an area 'undesirable to business' has been a subject of concern for city officials who recently spent 4.5 million to purchase nine properties in the downtown block. A local newspaper describes how officials are now "looking at the prospects of hiring street workers (used in some US cities) to assist police in moving 'troublemakers' off the streets to 'revitalize' the downtown core." (The Record, 2.5.02)

Additional suggestions from a meeting of merchants and city officials include: building 'funky' residential-studio space to attract artists, creating wider sidewalks to permit European-style cafes, and developing multicultural areas. Bravo. Gentrify the area and gloss over the problem instead of actually attending to it.

But concerns that downtown areas aren't safe are indeed legitimate. In downtown Kitchener, the concentration of outreach centers and temporary work agencies, in proximity to various drinking holes and pool halls has sustained an effect known as the 'flow'; a cycle of transient lifestyle that has accommodated anti-social and criminal elements more than anything else. The problem is only dealt with once it begins to affect business interests fixated on the downtown core, and even then, the 'solution' only seems to warrant pushing it out of sight into someone else's backyard.

This skewed approach employed by law enforcement and city officials alike has also been evident in the handling of the core's 'right-wing skinhead problem', which has resurfaced in recent times throughout the tri-city area. A local youth centre known as *The Spot* has been the target of attacks by gangs of boneheads who frequent pubs in the area. The main response by police to groupings such as the Tri-City Skins and the Canadian Ethnic Cleansing Team (of which one member was arrested for posting death threats on the Internet after the September 11 attacks) has been to 'institute a no-gang-colours policy to deter the groups from entering the city's core in Nazi wear'.

Boots and braces, eh? Well, that might cause some confusion, seeing as Insurgence [see page 6] will be 'revitalizing' the downtown core in its own way when it brings the troops to Kitchener for a streetpunk show at The Spot on Saturday, April 27. Perhaps some of the garbage will be swept off the sidewalks and back into the gutter where it belongs.

HELPING THE HOMELESS HOPELESS?

'Cambridge should not build a shelter for the homeless' was the headline from an article in The Record (2.5.02) detailing how similar projects have "strayed disastrously from their original mandate." Paul Cary, a former member of the Welcome Aboard and Out Of The Cold programs in Cambridge, explained how programs originally run by a committee of the users themselves, together with volunteer help, were to be free from the interference of social agencies but soon suffered the effects of paid staff, counseling by unqualified staff, and the duplication of services already

offered in the immediate area. "Their needs are not met by million-dollar new buildings ... Their needs are not met by more counseling ... Most of the poor people I know are well aware of their problems without well-intentioned, middle class people telling them."

Low-cost housing and a decent wage are the two things Cary cites in the way of addressing these needs, pointing to Toronto as the picture of how **not** to go about dealing with the crisis. "Projects that need backing are those that actually keep people off the street by helping them keep their apartments, and those that help find accommodation for people when they do lose their homes. Already-existing services need updating or expanded, at a mere fraction of the cost of an expensive and useless shelter."

Based in Toronto, however, is one community initiative that has long advocated for long term solutions to homelessness, but recognizes the importance of addressing immediate concerns and needs of the street homeless. The Street Patrols Program of Anishnawbe Health Toronto provides "curbside" services in the way of basic harm reduction supplies and assistance accessing shelter and medical services. Class Action will be hosting a benefit for this group at the end of May.

The proposal of 'making homelessness a crime', made by Tory leadership candidate Jim Flaherty in mid-February, is clearly rooted in a desire to manage rather than solve the homeless problem; criminalize rather than uplift. Community solutions advocating self-empowerment are the only reliable solutions.

RASH DECISIONS

RASH, the anti-fascist skinhead network on the North American east coast has begun to reorganize following recent 'threats' to their public events and cultural activities. The most recent incident to speak of came in the form of fifteen assorted NYC-area boneheads and gutter-skins who decided it would be fair game to storm an enemy pub and target the 'reds' who were inside enjoying a drink - all three of them! The chips fell hard for the opposition and the trio went back to their drinks. Reds they came for and reds they got - we hear it's still being scrubbed off the sidewalk!

Insurgence Records is sponsoring the attendance of bands to a 1st of May festival in Boston this year and affiliates in NYC are making use of the occasion to conduct a RASH conference in order to better network on the east coast.

Contact:
RASH NYC
PO Box 365
Canal St. Station
NYC 10013-0365 USA

What's happening in your area?

Anyone interested in making contact should write to us at our address or e-mail. Leave a name and phone number where we can reach you. Any/all information you provide will be handled in the strictest of confidence.

The September 11 terrorist attacks in the US have deeply altered the political landscape and boosted the resolve of reactionary forces worldwide. As many on the Left have been slow to admit, the current war geared against former CIA 'asset' Osama bin Laden and his clerical fascist Al Qaeda network has garnered broad support for the illegitimate Bush regime. The assault on the ill-fated people of Afghanistan has been justified by the 'war on terrorism' just as the civil and political rights of those on the home front have been trampled under the guise of 'protecting us from terror'.

BACKLASH

CONSEQUENCES OF THE 'WAR ON TERRORISM'

by Mat Jorsen

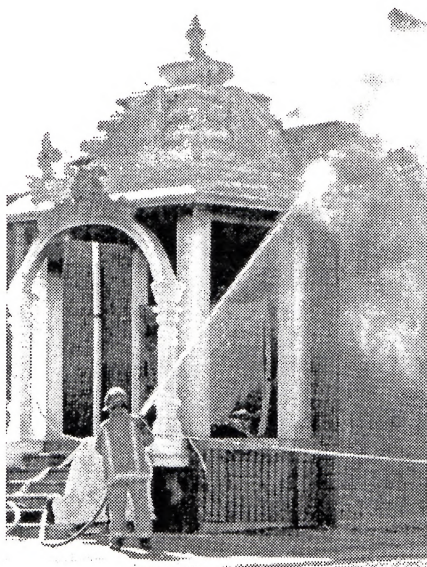
Following on the heels of the September 11 attacks in NYC and Washington, a visible section of citizens in America were subject to a wave of homespun terrorism. In one day alone (Monday, September 17), a bomb explodes at an Islamic Center in San Diego, incendiary devices are thrown on the roof of the Nation of Islam Mosque in Austin, Texas, an Ohio man drives his car through the entrance to the state's largest Mosque, Muslims meeting for prayer service in Bridgeport, CT arrive to find the building's phone wires cut and graffiti reading: "you will all die"....

Although most of these race attacks took place in the US, Canada has been marked by proximity as a 'haven for terrorists' plotting against and entering into the US. Within 24 hours of the attacks, a Montreal-area mosque was set alight by arsonists. On September 15, a Hindu Temple in Hamilton was burnt down and on the same night, Muslims were accosted at the city's largest Mosque, swastikas daubed on the front door and beer bottles thrown at the building. In Toronto, a Muslim woman was harassed on a public bus, had her groceries chucked out onto the sidewalk and was knocked unconscious before a bystander intervened.

To this small sampling amongst numerous incidents aggravated by events leading up to and surrounding the current 'war on terrorism', some have cited the extreme right as the primary agitator. An article in Macleans news magazine (12.3.01) entitled: *The far-right fallout*, deduces that "Sept. 11 has given white supremacist organizations a shot in the arm". Paul Fromm of the Canada First Immigration Reform Committee, claims his 2,500 member group (of spam e-mail recipients?) has enjoyed a 10% hike in membership since September 11. Fromm 'acknowledges most Canadians don't share all of his concerns about immigration, but realizes they have at least been sensitized enough to listen.'

As other groups are testing the waters for

people 'sensitized enough to listen' (The National Alliance circulated a flyer at the tail end of last year in select cities on the west coast, called 'Let's Stop Being Human Shields for Israel!'), some quarters have suggested police aren't dedicating enough resources aimed at keeping tabs on 'other threats to national security' in Canada. To the shock-horror of many, the Toronto police hate crimes



squad is currently made up of only one officer ('Hate squad stripped bare', Toronto Star 11.26.01). But while it's certainly within the realm of possibility that '[organized] racists could perpetrate acts of sabotage that are pinned on Islamic extremists while committing or inciting hate crimes of retaliation against Muslims', the risk of a full-blown racial backlash is just as high without the existence of a consistent extreme right presence.

Are the Nazis the only ones collecting a payoff here? Under the current conditions, the fermentation of racial unrest is but one consequence triggered by America's official reaction to the September 11 atrocities. In understanding the long-brewing crisis and

determining who has directly reaped its benefits, it becomes increasingly apparent that the 'war on global terror' is fast evolving into a broad domestic "war on dissent" with the "war against terrorism" serving as the pretext for repression.

"What made the immediate grim event all the worse was the political reality that these attacks were an incredible gift to the right in power. George W. Bush entered office with the tainted legitimacy of losing the popular vote by half a million. The report on the detailed recount of votes in pivotal Florida was about to come out. (When it did, the post-9/11 spin was that the recount the Supreme Court stopped would have left Bush in the lead. What got less attention was finding that with a complete recount of all votes cast Bush was the loser.) The economy had started to tank. The Bush administration was making the US in effect a 'rogue state' in the world: pulling out of the treaty on global warming, refusing to sign the treaty against biological warfare, preparing to scuttle the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. And the US and Israel had just exposed themselves, badly, by walking out of the World Conference Against Racism." (David Gilbert, article: 'The Terrorism that Terrorism Has Wrought', 12.31.01)

The events of September 11 have hastened the marshaling in of terror laws already slated for implementation across North America. Steadfast attempts to enforce the broad, although widely criticized, definition of terrorism should come as no surprise. In Canada, a new anti-terror bill has proposed amendments to the Criminal Code, the Official Secrets Act, the Canada Evidence Act and the National Defense Act. This bill is called Bill C-36 and its scope is broader than both the UK's Terrorism Act (2000) and the US's Patriot Act (2001).

'Terrorist activity' is herein defined as "an act, in or outside Canada, committed for a political, religious or ideological purpose, objective or cause and with the intention of

intimidating the public, or a segment of the public, with regard to its security, including its economic security, or compelling a person, a government or a domestic or an international organization to do or to refrain from doing any act, whether the person, government or organization is inside or outside Canada."

The activity in question must also be intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to a person by the use of violence, to endanger a person's life, to cause a risk to the health or safety of the public or any segment of the public, to cause substantial property damage (public or private), or to cause serious interference with or serious disruption of an essential service, facility or system (public or private). The blanket definition of violence presents serious subject for debate in regards to what exactly meets this broadly sweeping criteria. Pickets and protests that may end in affray or criminal damage could now be redefined as terrorism and the organizers branded terrorists.

The powers of intelligence gathering have also been increased. Provisions of the Bill include enhanced availability of electronic surveillance against 'terrorist groups', investigative hearings requiring individuals who are alleged to have information related to a terrorist group or offence to give up their right to silence and provide that information, criminal sanctions for persons who collect or give funds for terrorist groups (even if they're unaware the group is considered a 'terrorist group'), and preventative arrest of people on the grounds of reasonable suspicion that the person planned to carry out 'terrorist' activity (they could be held for up to 72 hours without charge and compelled to testify at hearings). Preventative arrest is something that hasn't previously existed in Canadian law.

Canada's terror law must also be taken in the context of Bill C-11. Set to take effect in May of this year, this Bill grants greater powers to the immigration law. The designation of who is and who isn't a terrorist or what constitutes a terrorist group will soon be made in much the same way security risks are now identified under immigration law - by ministerial certification before a judge in secret. A process entirely fraught with unaccountability, particularly unsettling in light of the unrestrained adherence to racial profiling.

The immigration system has long been in dire need of a rehaul, but changes implemented at all levels have only been geared at eroding the rights of immigrants, while ultimately doing very little in the way of protecting the rights of people already living here. For all the public reassurances in the wake of September 11, the

anti-terror measures have proven largely ineffective.

With the increased focus on monitoring and detaining immigrants entering Canada, the methodology employed demonstrates where the government's misplaced priorities lie. In the recent Federal Budget, Finance Minister Paul Martin dedicated one billion dollars to increased scrutiny over the next five years. What sort of thing is this money spent on? Since late fall, maneuvers have been afoot to transform the Guelph Correctional Centre into an immigration prison. Guelph itself is certainly no port of call for refugees landing in Ontario. Placement of such a facility, in a city so geographically distant from the services immigrants rely upon, would effectively incarcerate new arrivals in a policy that presumes guilt prior to innocence.

In Canada, as much as the US, recently unfolding events have set some formidable precedents, of which we have only seen the beginning. The widely sanctioned 'War Against Terrorism' will manifest in a domestic backlash in its own right - repression on the home front, in addition to creating compound problems for those perceived as 'alien' or 'hostile' to 'national security'.

"Historically, it has been at times of inflamed passions and national anger that our civil liberties proved to be at greatest risk, and the unpopular group of the moment was subject to prejudice and deprivation of liberty. In 1798, Congress enacted the notorious Alien and Sedition Acts, making it a federal crime to criticize the government. In 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War, President Lincoln suspended habeas corpus, citing the need to repress 'an insurrection against the laws of the United States.' Ulysses S. Grant sought to expel Jews from southern states. World War II brought about the shameful internment of Japanese Americans, which even the Supreme Court failed to overturn." (John Conyers, dean of the Congressional Black Caucus)

Rather than shy away from the maintenance of our honourable traditions or hide behind masks to make a political stand, we must work towards taking our place in broad daylight as a legitimate and authentic expression of working class concerns. As insignificant as the extreme right seem, they've made attempts to do just this. Whether they prove themselves a collection of deadbeats or whether they actually understand that proscription and State repression only works when organizations have no real and lasting roots in communities, our side must affirm where we stand and proceed accordingly. □

MEDIA MATTERS

"Toronto's Police Services Board Chair, Norm Gardner, says Toronto police are surveying hundreds of city residents to see if they have any connections to terrorists."

Gardner told CBC news Tuesday that police are compiling a list of several hundred names of people whose backgrounds they want to check. That's got some civil libertarians saying that police are on a witch-hunt that targets people of middle eastern descent.

"I'm assuming that people on this list are predominantly of middle eastern descent. I wouldn't speculate on that but you may be right," says Gardner. The list includes several hundred people, says Gardner, with more being added every day. Tips are coming in from informants, hearsay, and even suspicious neighbours." (CBC news 10.10.01)

"A University of B.C. women's studies professor who criticized U.S. foreign policy has been accused of a hate crime - publicly inciting hatred against Americans."

An unidentified B.C. resident alleged Oct. 4 that assistant professor Sunera Thobani violated the Criminal Code of Canada during an Oct. 1 speech to a women's conference in Ottawa, RCMP Corporal Michael Labossiere of the B.C. hate crime unit said Tuesday." ('Thobani accused of hate crime against Americans', Vancouver Sun 10.10.01)

"It is terrorism and not the measures taken to combat it which represents the greatest threat to our human rights and cherished values of freedom and democracy." Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Eric Vernon (Toronto Star 11.17.01)

"I've had dealings with Black Muslims, I've had dealings with Arabs, I've had dealings with people of various races, and I realize that some of these people are as motivated as I am in working for the interest of their race." Wolfgang Droege, HF founder (Macleans, 12.3.01)

Seen any interesting quotes or media comments? Send a copy to:

Media Matters c/o Class Action / 522 Church St. Box 111 / Toronto, ON / M4Y 2E3

ON FILE

with Faith Carladio



FIGHTING MUSIC

VH1, the American-based music station, aired a program entitled *Inside Hate Rock* that premiered February 18th of this year. The show's producers set out to uncover "the frightening allure and danger of skinhead rock, a key recruitment tool in the U.S. white power movement," interviewing a hand-picked selection of its cast of characters.

With the usual uninitiated 'experts' leading the charge, the program devotes a full hour to providing voices from the 'haterock' scene with a soapbox, rolling out the predictable set of liberal opponents who seem to only reinforce the myth of 'hate culture' as an unstoppable - albeit headline-worthy - force.

As the white power rock media circus trundles along unopposed throughout the bulk of the program, the only counterpoint of real substance is offered by a spokesman for Insurgence Records (a North American anti-fascist skinhead record label):

"The hatecore scene is the enemy. It has to be destroyed.. There's no other way to say it. It's a festering cancer in our society... More specifically, it's a cancer amongst white working class youth. It offers them false alternatives; a false sense of hope. That if they get involved, they'll find the solutions they're looking for. They won't. They'll find a brick wall."

Although thirty seconds worth of Insurgence coverage did indeed create a lasting impression with many viewers, the producers of the program clearly had their sights focused

elsewhere. Adopting the moralistic 'love vs. hate' stance, the VH1 special highlights the unique case of George Burdi, former COTC honcho and Resistance Records founder, whose recent conversion to an anti-racist mindset has been lauded as a shining example of courage and integrity.

Differing from the scores of former flag bearers who've switched allegiances in less dramatic fashion, Burdi has faced no small criticism from various quarters. To the individual solely responsible for upgrading the movement from an era of xeroxed fanzines into the 20th Century with glossy publications and media savvy gusto, some might be excused for thinking he's abandoned 'politics' because it hasn't worked out for him personally.

His new band Novacosm, a new-age rock outfit, receives significant coverage in the program, counter posed with clips from Burdi's dodgier days as frontman for white power rock band, Rahowa (Racial Holy War). Many casual observers as well as the more 'intimately involved' have been moved by Burdi's prolific journey.

The proverbial 'pissing on the parade' is let loose by Insurgence:

"What has he done to clean up the cesspool that he's created? The immigrant that got beaten up and paralyzed after the Rahowa show.. He's never going to be able to walk again. He's always going to have to deal with the results of something George Burdi's created."

On the Novacosm website, disdain is expressed for the Insurgence Records 'boss', who "[expresses] dissatisfaction with Burdi's alleged reluctance to recant his past using strong enough rhetoric," and continues, "Although it serves as a good introduction to the history of the hatecore scene, *Inside Hate Rock* evokes fear instead of producing compassion. Failing to believe that love is the greatest weapon against hate, VH1 is antagonistic instead of empathetic; reactionary instead of inspirational. Which begs the question, if you hate the haters, are you any different?"

In other words, those who would physically and ideologically (read: effectively) combat the poison of the fascists are deemed as bad as those they oppose, irrespective of their politics. Burdi's distancing of himself from notions of 'hate' in the service of white supremacy seem more attributed to the rejection of violence and anger as uncivilized traits of working class rabble.

Using the language of those most easily conned, Burdi has certainly done a good job of glossing over the obvious. In dialogue with the man, who at times candidly speaks of Resistance Records as if it were a rung in his career ladder, a recent interview with Burdi in a US-based punk magazine [*Punk Planet* #48 - March & April 2002], echoes the claim that he was innocent of the attack on a woman in Ottawa during a street altercation with anti-racists in 1993, for which he was convicted.

"A year in jail left him a changed man" is the leading pull-quote, but having left prison Burdi still felt justified in selling the Resistance Records enterprise to leading American fascist, William Pierce for a very tidy sum. Do his band mates have a problem with becoming famous on the coattails of racial controversy, or bankrolling their talents on blood money cultivated from fascist propaganda? The interviewers seem more hypnotized by the 'irony' that two members of Burdi's new band are black and a third is Jewish.

The class nature of the cancer eating away at this particular youth culture is consistently swept under carpet. Naturally, George Burdi has good reason to avoid broaching the subject in these terms. In a criticism of the *Inside Hate Rock* special, Burdi reserves special disdain for the angry-faced skinheads whom he refers to as losers who "got the short end of the straw." Succeeding in 'modernizing' the contemporary fascist movement, but failing in his pompous attempts to 'civilize' its rank and file, these working class foot soldiers are now beneath him. With them written off as its worst aspects, so too do the progressive aspects of working class culture get short shrift by middle class arrogance at its worst.

Burdi explains the ideological reasons for his departure from the far-right in an excerpt from a forthcoming essay, *The Eternal Winter of the White Man's Soul*: "The presence of white separatism, like so many other modern manifestations, is the result of strong social currents of which it is merely a reflection. These tribal currents are many eons old, and have historically emerged as a virtuous element in times of peril. But in this age without heroes, it is little more than a preposterous reflection in a funhouse mirror of an otherwise natural impulse."

Goebbels would've been well impressed. □

[photo: Angelic Upstarts playing for Insurgence Records and RASH in NYC, Feb. 1, 2001]

OUT IN LEFT FIELD

CIVIL RIGHTS AND WRONGS

"At a time when all democracies face the threat of terrorism, this attempt to indoctrinate our young people in the ways of violence and confrontation is a dangerous move to destabilize society. Cooperation with law enforcement officials and security officers should be of paramount priority and any attempt to advocate otherwise warrants full investigation."

The above quote comes from a B'nai Brith Canada press release (10.1.01) penned by Executive Vice President, Frank Dimant following a 'crackdown' by the group on left wing pro-Palestinian campus activism at Concordia University. In the direct wake of the September 11 events, B'nai Brith takes it upon itself to ask, 'could the Concordia Student Union be a "training grounds" for supporters of Osama Bin Laden?'

Strange tact one might think, from an 'education organization' parent to the Anti-Defamation League, whose 1913 founding charter defined its mission to oppose "the defamation of the Jewish People" and asserted that "its ultimate purpose is to secure justice and fair treatment to all citizens alike."

Not *all* citizens, it would seem.

Over the years, the organization has garnered widespread respect for its 'active support of civil rights' and 'vigorous opposition to organized racism' but on more than one occasion, the same groups who supported the ADL and their aims found themselves subject to unwarranted scrutiny by the ADL itself. At time of writing, a case draws to an end - at least within the confines of the legal system - implicating the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith in a far-reaching spying operation directed against American citizens who were opposed to Israel's policies in the Occupied West Bank and Gaza and to the apartheid policies of the South African government.

"The founding of the State of Israel and, even more so, the 1967 Middle East War changed ADL's view of its mission. Prior to World War II, the League focused on domestic issues and 'historically distanced itself from the issues of Israel and Zionism.' Until 1967, it supported Israel without making that country central to ADL policy or Jewish identity. Then, ADL philosophy became: 'Anti-Zionism equals

anti-Semitism', i.e., 'criticism of Israel reflects insensitivity to American Jews and constitutes a form of anti-Semitism'." (Covert Action No.45, 1993 - footnote: *The New Anti-Semitism*, ADL, 1974)

When the District Attorney of San Francisco released 700 pages of documents on the eve of the case in 1993, it was soon revealed that not only were critics of Israel under ADL scrutiny, but hundreds of progressive groups, labor unions, alternative news services and an estimated 100,000 Bay Area residents were also targets of illegal covert spy operations carried out in cahoots with the FBI.

"With an annual budget of more than \$34 million, the ADL is anything but your average 'civil rights' organization. For more than 50 years, the group has routinely compiled dossiers on 'extremist hate groups' and admits to supplying reports to law enforcement agencies including the FBI. Roy Bullock, a San Francisco art dealer and S.F. police officer, Tom Gerard, a CIA 'contract employee' ran a 'private' version of the FBI's COINTELPRO operations against Arab-American, Black, Chicano, feminist, labor, left, progressive and religious organizations between 1985-1993." (The Public-Private Partnership, T. Burghardt, *Antifa Forum* No.2)

Through the use of break-ins, infiltrations and other illegal means, the ADL provided secret files to police agencies when laws prevented these agencies from collecting the files themselves. As plaintiffs in the ADL spying case have recently pointed out, *"One wonders what would have happened had an Arab-American or Muslim organization had been caught spying with the names of 10,000 people*

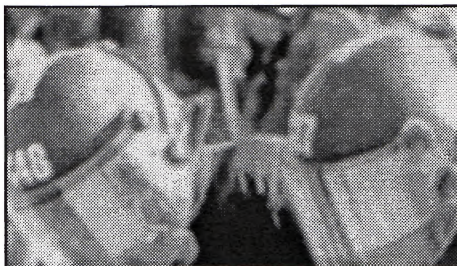
and 600 organizations in their files." (The ADL Spying Case is Over, But the Struggle Continues, 2.25.02)

Domestic spying has a long history in North America. The first documented involvement by the ADL in the service of state repression was in 1947 when 'red hunters' initiated a broad purge of 'subversives'. The 1970s brought the revelation that the ADL was collecting data on Arab-American political activity and providing it to the FBI on a regular basis. These activities continued into the 1980s as the ADL, a staunch supporter of the Reagan administration's crusade against the Sandinistas, led a smear campaign alleging the FSLN government in Managua were persecuting Jews.

Almost a decade since the 1993 spying case began, a suit has been settled with a significant payment by the ADL, who spent millions of dollars in attempts to prevent the case from coming to trial. *"In its settlement with the city, the ADL, admitted no wrongdoing, agreed to restrain their operatives from seeking non-public data on ADL's enemies from government agencies and, putting a happy face on the story, promised to create a \$25,000 Hate Crimes Fund and another \$25,000 for a public school course."* (The ADL Snoops: Were The Spies 'Journalists?' www.counterpunch.org)

As current 'counter-terror' measures have clearly replaced 'anti-communism' as the valve for enacting repressive legislation in North America, the partnerships among intelligence agencies and right-wing spy outfits will likely continue unabated. Exposing these and other threats to civil liberties, wherever they originate from, is the best form of defense against these unaccountable agendas. □





TOWARDS A POLICE STATE

**Ashcroft Poised To Unleash The FBI
Against U.S. Political, Religious
Groups**

by Tom Burghardt
Editor, Antifa Info-Bulletin

SAN FRANCISCO -- Last December 1, three days shy of the 32nd anniversary of the FBI orchestrated assassination of Black Panther Party leaders Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced plans to loosen restrictions on FBI spying on religious and political groups in the United States.

With the "war against terrorism" as a flag of convenience, senior White House and Justice Department officials sought to "modify" rules governing FBI conduct, according to the New York Times. Unnamed DoJ officials alleged that the Attorney General's guidelines, in place since the 1970s when disclosure of widespread abuses by the Bureau's domestic counterinsurgency program COINTELPRO shocked the country, are "outmoded and geared to obsolete investigative methods" that "at times hobbled FBI counterterrorist efforts."

Leaving FBI Director Robert Mueller's mendacity aside, proposed "modifications" follow administration measures to establish secret military tribunals to try foreign terrorism suspects; the detention of more than 1,200 people, nearly all of whom were unconnected to the September 11 attacks; a government dragnet that interrogated more than 5,000 immigrants, mostly from the Middle East and license to monitor internet communications and conduct warrantless break-ins virtually at will. The latest blow to civil liberties from the illegitimate Bush regime, a government that came to power as the result of massive fraud and conspiracy, is one more step towards the imposition of a police state.

Under current DoJ guidelines, the FBI is prohibited from infiltrating political groups or conducting surveillance operations at mosques or churches unless investigators first find probable cause that a crime is being planned

THE FORUM

or that a member may have broken the law. With the September 11 attacks as a pretext, and claiming that "some Islamic militants have sometimes met at mosques," high-ranking members of the Bush Justice Department seek broad authority to spy on alleged terrorist suspects no matter where they are.

Curiously, neither the Times nor "senior officials" have commented on the apparent double-standard used to determine which groups or churches should be targeted. When neo-Nazi mass killer Timothy McVeigh was indicted for the 1995 Oklahoma City massacre, neither the Justice Department nor the FBI sought to infiltrate the network of white supremacist churches that nurtured McVeigh and his terrorist cohorts. And despite an on-going campaign of murder and arson by home-grown antiabortion militants, the government never used its formidable investigatory resources to smash the violent network of "holy warriors" spawned by the Christian Right. Could it be the Attorney General, a fundamentalist abortion opponent, is leery of alienating the reactionary social base of the Republican party?

With more than enough circumstantial evidence to charge the administration with covering-up the massive intelligence failure--or worse--that led to the September 11 atrocity, the White House is moving with breath-taking speed to shred constitutional protections in the hope of preempting opposition from below; of real concern to political and economic elites given the serious nature of today's deepening economic and social crisis.

If history is a guide for analyzing the scope of repressive policies now being implemented by this administration, we're in for a rocky ride. During the 1980s, the church-based Sanctuary movement and a score of Central American solidarity groups were targets of illegal FBI "counterterrorist" operations. Employing a former FBI employee as an infiltrator, the Bureau sought to undermine the work of individuals and organizations opposed to the Reagan administration's murderous policies. Thousands of U.S. citizens were targeted by FBI surveillance operations and "dirty tricks" by right-wing groups in cahoots with the Bureau. A similar pattern has emerged today among the ideological heirs of the John Birch Society-connected Western Goals and the alarmist Council for Inter-American Security.

In November, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a right-wing pressure group founded by Lynne Cheney, the wife of U.S. vice president Dick Cheney, blasted academic opponents of Bush administration policies as "the weak link in America's response to the attacks."

If an individual or a group can be demonized as a "weak link" in America's new holy war, are they not as equally culpable as the criminals who obliterated the Twin Towers? As the administration fights a "war unlike any other," a nebulous conflict where "Americans need to watch what they say and what they do," aren't those who oppose the war guilty of giving "aid and comfort to the enemy"?

Armed with a working definition of "terrorism" vague enough to include non-violent civil disobedience by antiglobalization demonstrators, environmentalists, or workers trying to prevent scab convoys from breaking a strike, aren't domestic dissidents therefore, terrorists in the eyes of the White House? In our brave new world "where everything has changed," it is but a short step from FBI surveillance of "terrorism suspects" to provocations by government informants and right-wing agents provocateurs to land an American citizen behind bars--or facing a firing squad after summary trial by a military tribunal.

On December 4, 1969, after teaching a political education class at the Church of Epiphany, Black Panther Party leader Fred Hampton returned home for a night-cap with friends. Unbeknownst to Hampton, FBI infiltrator William O'Neal, BPP Chief of Security and Hampton's personal bodyguard, drugged his drink. When the Chicago Police Department's Gang Intelligence Unit, using a floor plan provided by O'Neal, burst into the Hampton home and starting shooting, Fred Hampton offered no resistance. He couldn't because he was unconscious when Chicago police murdered him in cold blood: two shots were fired point-blank into his head.

Is this what the Bush administration has in mind when it warns, "you're either with us or with the terrorists"? □

A version of this article appeared in Antifa Info-Bulletin, No. 324, December 2, 2001. AFIB is an online newsletter analyzing and reporting on the connections among corporations, the state and the fascists. To subscribe please write: afib-subscribe@igc.topica.com



FIGHTING TIMES

ON TO OTTAWA: COMMEMORATING A LIFETIME OF STRUGGLE

Unveiling of the Spanish Civil War Memorial

On the weekend of October 20, Class Action members and supporters traveled to the capital city for the unveiling of a Spanish Civil War memorial to Canadian veterans.

1546 Canadians volunteered to fight fascism during the Spanish Civil War from 1936-1939. The fight for the freedom of Loyalist Spain pitted an International Brigade of 40,000 civilian soldiers from 51 countries against the well-equipped insurgents of Generalissimo Francisco Franco and the crucial backup supplied by Hitler and Mussolini. Members of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, also known as the "Mac-Paps", were the first Canadian soldiers to fight against the fascist aggression that developed into World War II. Roughly half of the Canadians survived to return home in 1939.

Throughout the crisis, the Mac Paps enjoyed popular support from the Canadian people. Fundraising for Spain was high on the agenda for working class organizations and individuals on the home front. But while the Mac Paps received support from the Canadian people, the Canadian government did not honour their sacrifice. In fact, upon their return from Spain, they were treated more like criminals than heroes. In spite of this, most volunteered for the Canadian forces when World War II began, to continue the fight against fascism they had committed to in Spain.

No national monument honoured their name or acknowledged their service to humanity. This was finally remedied, more than 60 years after the fact, at this ceremony. In recent times, Canadian veterans and their supporters have campaigned on a number of issues and have worked tirelessly to ensure their rightful place in history. This has been a significant aim indeed, considering the antagonistic role maintained by the Canadian state against its citizens who chose to enlist in the 'Good Fight' and in light of their collective omission from 'official' historical accounts. To date, the association has succeeded in commissioning several monuments in various cities across Canada.

"The government did not want it. We raised the money ourselves with the help of Canadian people right across the country."

Jules Paivio, Ottawa, 10.20.01

The campaign for a monument in the capital city was spearheaded by the Association of Veterans and Friends of the Mackenzie Papineau Battalion. The monument was built entirely with donations from individuals and organizations. As to be expected, the government of Canada didn't kick in a penny.

Only three out of roughly a dozen remaining Canadian veterans were able to attend the commemoration. These were Maurice Constant (Kitchener), Arne Knudsen (Delta B.C.) and Jules Paivio (Sudbury), president of the Association of Veterans and Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of Canada who hosted the well-attended event. Moe Fishman, Secretary of the VALB (Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade) traveled up from the US for the occasion to pay tribute to his Canadian comrades.

Their history is part of a longstanding militant anti-fascist tradition in this country; a hidden history that we must fight tooth-and-nail to uncover and preserve.

It is important to understand - particularly in today's reactionary times - that this tradition doesn't end at any specific point in history or set of economic and social circumstances. It is a fighting tradition that lives on. □

Official website of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion:
www.cam.org/macpap

Media coverage and video downloads of the event:
www.workingtv.com/nationalmacpapmonument.html

For more on the history of the Canadian volunteers' fight against fascism at home and abroad, a booklet entitled: *The Militant Tradition: Commemorating Canadian Volunteers of the International Brigades* has been produced and can be obtained by sending \$4 to: Insurgence Publishing, 2 Bloor St. W. Suite 100-184, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 3E2 Canada

FIGHTING TIMES

THE INTERNATIONAL BRIGADES

It has been estimated that between 40,000 and 60,000 non-Spaniards volunteered to help defend the Spanish Republic during the Civil War of 1936-39. Of these some 5,000 combatants, doctors, nurses, dentists, drivers and engineers came from North America, with an estimated 1250 coming from Canada. This is a story of internationalism, with the understanding that our frontiers are not restricted to our own countries but indeed anti-fascist solidarity is a necessity if there is to be any movement forward for our own struggles.

The volunteers from North America were organized into the Abraham Lincoln Brigade (Battalion), with Canadian volunteers being formed into the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion (Mac-Paps) while at war. Frank Rogers, an American who was a political commissar of the Mac-Paps, estimates that "no other country provided so great a number of volunteer soldiers in proportion to its population as did Canada."

The Canadian government's response to the "dress rehearsal" for WWII, was with the Allies' pact of "non-intervention", which prevented troops and equipment from going to the aid of the elected republican government. Meanwhile 50,000 German and 100,000 Italian fascist soldiers streamed into Spain with the most modern land, sea and air weapons of war. It is interesting to note that American companies like Texaco and especially Dupont were helping the fascists. While bombs that were manufactured in the U.S. by Dupont were dropped on the anti-fascists, the tanks that rolled over their bodies did so on Texaco fuel.

The Volunteers of the International Brigades were smuggled across the French border and had little equipment or training. Still, they helped to stem the tide of war for two years before being overwhelmed by sheer military superiority. More than half of these Volunteers were killed before the war ended.

Ross Russel who left Montreal to join the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion has been quoted as saying: "What was happening in Spain wasn't a civil war, it was a fascist invasion. If it could happen there, no democratically elected government was safe ... we were before our time ... we saw the menace of fascism and we fought it. We figured we could stop it there

before it became a bigger threat. But the government, even now, won't recognize us as veterans of a legitimate war."

Those who returned alive from the war were blacklisted from jobs, harassed by secret police, some were barred from entering the U.S., and those who joined WWII were forbidden promotions above the rank of corporal.



"Fifty years ago, the Canadian government saw communists under every bed," says a B.C. veteran. "But nobody remembers that a lot of guys didn't have beds."

The Volunteers from North America were organized by the Communist Party, though few Battalion members belonged to the Party. Len Norris, a Mac-Pap vet from Vancouver said, "In general, we had a lot of guys who were not members of the party and who were somewhat anarchistic, so there was a certain sympathy towards the anarchists, like in the struggle in British Columbia, especially in the lumber fields, a lot of guys wouldn't join the party - they wouldn't join anything. I mean, yeah, they would join the trade union, but no party. They were too independent-minded and too individualistic but they struggled and they

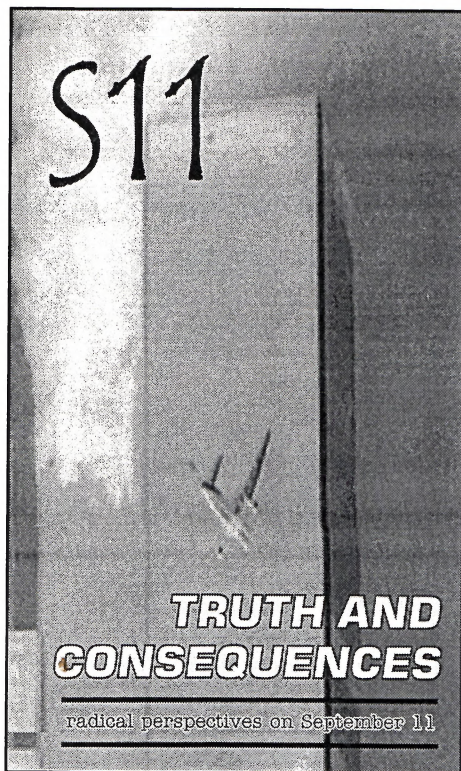
followed party leadership in those struggles; but the party could not have lead those struggles without them, because without them there would have been no struggle at all. They were very dependable, very trustworthy and they were very tough fighters."

Dan Daniels, who was a member of the Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion, describes the volunteers in the June 1969, Vol. 6, No. 4, issue of *Our Generation*. "In Canada most of them came out of the extra-parliamentary struggles, particularly the Regina Trek, relief and eviction battles and struggles on the industrial picket lines; the vast majority members of the working class; the middle class mainly represented by students. More than a few of the survivors continuing to engage themselves after returning to Canada, especially in the ranks of seamen."

The ranks of the International Brigades included women and African Americans. Salaria Kee O'Reilly was not yet O'Reilly when she went to Spain. There, in 1937, she met one of the Irish volunteers of the Connolly column and married him. In talking about her experiences after the war she said, "A little while ago the Ku Klux Klan became very active around here in Akron. Pat and I had kept going to Catholic church here, but the other day somebody called and said that they were going to kill "that nigger bitch" if I continued to go to that church. I really got scared, and so I haven't been going ... It makes me realize that the only honest time in my life, the only time that people really respected me for what I was and for what I could do was in Spain, even with that Dr. Pitts (a racist volunteer). He was the pits, but he was an exception. Everyone else was lovely. I have to tell you, the best part of my life was when I was in Spain."

The Volunteers of the International Brigades took a very courageous stand against fascism and many of their corpses lie in unmarked graves. Their contribution to the struggle bears testimony to the spirit of resistance against overwhelming odds. In defense of the liberty of the dispossessed from our fascist enemies they fought in Spain.

(Excerpted in part from Saoirse No 10 (Dec 1993/Jan 1994) *Social and Political Revolution During the Spanish Civil War*)



UNDER REVIEW

'S11: Truth And Consequences Radical Perspectives on September 11'

In the aftermath of September 11, there have been various attempts across the board to formulate an understanding about the crisis leading up to the attacks on the World Trade Center and subsequent fallout.

As the anti-globalization movement rebirths itself on the anti-war bandwagon (going from strength to strength - or so the story went), the Left finds itself increasingly errant in its role of informing public opinion. Some have gone as far as justifying the attacks in NYC and Washington in the name of anti-capitalism.

From a more 'sane' corner of leftwing perspectives, the Solidarity publishing collective make their modest contribution in the form of a new pamphlet. *S11: Truth And Consequences* serves as an attempt to initiate some discussion mostly within - but probably not confined to - the left.

The pamphlet provides a good introduction to the history of US imperialism and both its collusion and conflicts with radical fundamentalist currents within the Islamic world. It also attempts to provide an overview of domestic repercussions in North America since the September 11th attacks.

Consisting of a collection of previously-published (mostly from the internet) articles from a range of radical news sources and viewpoints, the content offers up a few gems. *Afghanistan 1979-1992: America's Jihad* by William Blum is one stand-out article amidst some of the shorter contributions, detailing America's history of shady involvement in the region.

Rather than attempt to advance a unified political statement on the events surrounding September 11, the editors at Solidarity have refreshingly concentrated on delivery of the facts and addressing some of the more frequently asked questions about the crisis, even though some of the authors whose work appears in the collection don't necessarily agree 100% with Solidarity's overall political perspective.

Beyond simply reissuing the texts, Solidarity attempt to tie the strands together and outline the most urgent tasks at hand:

"Resisting the rise of racism and xenophobia ... new repressive legislation and police powers already being unleashed ... militarism and the possibility of a Central Asian massacre at the hands of either U.S. forces or their proxies"

In addition to these points, they add: *"these tasks should be accomplished in the perspective of developing and holding a class position in opposition to white supremacy, imperialism, capitalism and patriarchy. Any other strategy will be limited both in terms of longterm viability and effectiveness."*

Apart from the obligatory sloganeering and outlandish demands in one or two of the texts (*"We call for proletarian risings in the Muslim world against capitalism, fundamentalism, terrorism and the US attacks"* [?!]), there are some useful documents here that pretty much anyone can read and comprehend - whether they've got their political hats on or not. □

(reviewed by Asgeir Sigurvinson)

**'S11: Truth And Consequences
Radical Perspectives on September 11'**
[ISBN 1-894820-35-5] is available for \$4 ppd from: Kersplebedeb, CP 63560, CCCP Van Horne, Montreal, QC, Canada, H3W 3H8

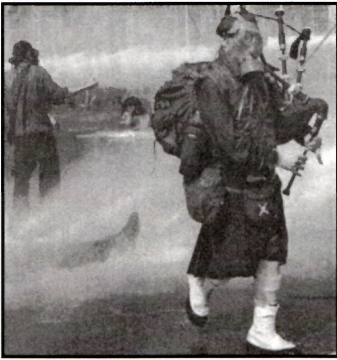
"Passenger planes slam into the symbols of American economic and military power - longtime symbols of unspeakable human suffering and evil combined - killing thousands and sending us all through a political wormhole. Disoriented, shaken and perplexed, 'the movement' emerges on the other side no longer sure in which direction to move.

In the immediate aftermath many think first of retreat. Liberal groups such as the Sierra Club cancel campaigns, symbolically transferring their do-gooder sensibilities, their cherished moral capital, to the new state of national unity. Supposedly more militant comrades from the anti-globalization movement follow suit, as a bizarre Popular Front for the American Way of Life emerges from the ruins of the World Trade Center."

(from introduction)

"I was working for The Times in 1980, and just south of Kabul I picked up a very disturbing story. A group of religious mujahedin fighters had attacked a school because the communist regime had forced girls to be educated alongside boys. So they had bombed the school, murdered the head teacher's wife and cut off her husband's head. It was all true. But when The Times ran the story, the Foreign Office complained to the foreign desk that my report gave support to the Russians. Of course. Because the Afghan fighters were the good guys. Because Osama bin Laden was the good guy. Charles Douglas-Home, then editor of The Times would always insist that Afghan guerrillas were called 'freedom fighters' in the headline. There was nothing you couldn't do with words."

(Robert Fisk, journalist)



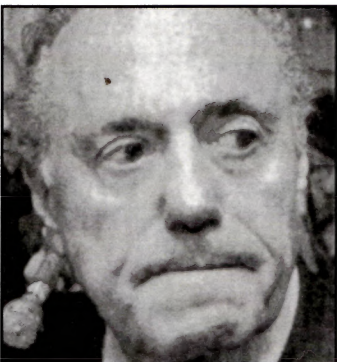
Summit-hopping activist fashions of 2001 deemed violent under new terror law

see LIFESTYLES page 4D



Area East European Slavic-Canadian man appeals for survival of white race

see CULTURE page 2E



**Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman considers a career change
"I might try my hand at politics"**

see ENTERTAINMENT page 8C

The Parting Shot

ALL THE NEWS THAT WASN'T FIT FOR PRINT



Kulba (above): "Wait a second. It was working perfectly just before you came in."

Neo-nazi website 'wreaks havoc on those reds' claims racist webmaster, social misfit

KITCHENER, ON - The days of messy and inconvenient street confrontations are over for a new generation of computer-savvy reactionaries with early curfews. Nazi propagandist Alexi Kulba takes time out from his diligent text-inputting duties to provide some insight into 'the movement' he spearheads from behind a keyboard in his parents home. "My network of internet webpages have single-handedly brought those

ZOG-loving commies to their knees, literally begging for mercy from the onslaught of some of these totally rad animated Gifs," boasted self-declared champion of a struggle he claims has a lineage dating back to his Iron Age ancestry.

We asked Alexi what sort of activities his group engages in socially and whether its members meet outside framework of 'cyberspace'. To this Alexi replied,

"Check this out. I've got a Pentium III 750MHz with 512K Processor, 128 MB of onboard RAM, an Active-Matrix display, and a high-speed connection rate of 144 baud!"

The notorious page that's been creating such a tempest in a teapot is of course the homepage of the Canadian National Heritage Ethnic-Cleansing Alliance Committee Front.

Self-made graphic artist and neo-Nazi 'net-activist', Alexi told reporters Sunday that although the group's membership ranks are swelling, he would "have to do a search on the web and get back to you with the exact numbers."

He added, "I'm trying to get our group logo finished but the swap-file for Photoshop is full and won't let me save my latest goddamned version to disk!"

Dr. Barnes Thumlip, a scientist from the local Rocket Institute and close watcher of young boys on the Internet, delivered his observations to the press.

"I've been tracking these little spite-merchants for days now. It really is quite remarkable what can be done with computers in this modern age we all live in. I mean, to set up multiple e-mail addresses representing various regional group chapters in Canada that are in reality all answered by one person... Pure genius!"

So what's the next step for these

see BANDWIDTH LIMITATIONS
DETREMENT TO WHITE
REVOLUTION page 3A

Immigration foe 'unaware that these laws affect whites as well'

HAMILTON, ON - "This totally sucks, dude", was the comment anti-immigration advocate Clark DeMure offered to reporters yesterday in front of his home in an unsuspecting Stony Creek community.

DeMure is a high-profile figurehead for the Canadians for Unfairness in Immigration Committee, based in an unsuspecting Stony Creek community.

"We've been calling for a five-year moratorium on immigration to Canada, but I had no idea the new

points system would prevent so many white tool and dye makers and welders from entering the country," exclaimed DeMure, kicking at the ground with his heel. "You would've thought that by surrounding myself with so many poor whites in this town, I'd come to know that many blue collar workers are white. But their interests never really crossed my mind."

Stricter regulations passed in November count out many

see SELFISH PRICK page 7E



DeMure: "I had absolutely no idea."